fifteen villages around Marungur with a population of 10,000. From Marungur there was no motor service either to Nagercoil or to Cape Comorin and even bullock-carts were not easily available. A dispensary should therefore be established at Marungur.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Azhakianayakam Pillai. In regard to your representation advocating the establishment of a dispensary in every *pakuthi* in Nanjinad, I hope the need will never come for that. The health of the place must be very bad before such a necessity can actually arise. As it is, one finds that Nanjinad is one of the districts where people have greater facilities for getting medical help than any other part of the State.

Your suggestion that qualified medical practitioners should start private dispensaries and that Government should help them with grants, is one that Government themselves have once accepted; and if qualified people are prepared to come forward to open dispensaries, you may rest assured that Government will be prepared to render all facilities in that matter.

The question of having a Medical Registration Regulation is under the consideration of Government.

63. Kottayam Hospital.

MR. NINAN EIPE (*Kottayam taluk, Group* I) speaking in Malayalam said that the needs of the Kottayam hospital received little attention at the hands of the Government and the Medical Board. It was widely regretted that representations on that subject in the Assembly and elsewhere had no effect on them. The town of Trivandrum was to have the luxury of pipe-water on an expenditure of Rs. 57 lakhs. The people of the Kottayam town and its suburbs were not asking for lakhs but only for thousands.

Visitors to the hospital could hardly fail to notice the squalor and misery in its premises and the wretched condition of the patients occupying the wards. Mr. A. Venkitarama Iyer, who officiated as Dewan, described the condition of the hospital as worse than a cattle shed. For want of accommodation, patients occupied the verandahs and the backyards of the hospital and their condition daily grew from bad to worse due to exposure to the heat of the day and the excessive cold at night. Dr. Peter Lakshmanan, some time Durbar Physician, had proposed the construction of eight additional buildings in the premises of the hospital, and the Public Works Department started preparing plans. But suddenly a dispute arose with regard to the plan for the eighth building and the whole project fell through. It would have been a great blessing if the seven buildings whose plans were completed without dispute had been constructed, leaving out the unfortunate eighth.

That the accommodation available in the two existing buildings was quite inadequate was evident from the following statistics. During the years 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104 and 1105 the major operations were 260, 275, 307, 312 and 321, the out-patients treated were 39,702, 43,032, 43,552, 40,773 and 47,518 and the in-patients in the hospital

were 770, 962, 1,034, 1,152 and 1,227, respectively. It would appear that, while there were only 33 beds available, 72 in-patients were treated on an average; and the remaining 39 in-patients spent days and nights on the verandahs and under shady trees. Many a poor labourre who sought accommodation was turned out mercilessly by the hospital authorities.

There were only four beds in the maternity ward and yet there were, on an average, twelve inmates in that ward. Besides, the cooking arrangements made for the inmates of that ward were very miserable.

Out of about 50,000 patients treated in the hospital in 1105, the majority were women, and yet there was only one woman doctor in the institution. There were qualified women doctors in Kottayam and the appointment of one of them in the hospital was a great necessity.

One of the two compounders in the hospital gave most of his time to clerical work in the institution and hence the entire work of compounding and dispensing medicines fell to the lot of the other, who was a very hard-worked subordinate. The consequence of errors made in the dispensing room by haste or any other reason might easily be imagined. A clerk was very necessary and should be appointed in the institution, so that the compounder who was attending to clerical work might devote his time exclusively to the compounding of medicines.

There were only four nurses in the Kottayam hospital, although in smaller and less important hospitals the nursing staff was much larger, some of them being European nurses. One or two additional nurses should therefore be appointed in the hospital.

A change introduced in the hospital not long ago was the provision of beds for in-patients in thatched sheds which were ill- ventilated. Those sheds were more suitable for storing rice and paddy in gunny-bags than for accommodating the sick. Kottayam being one of the important towns in the State, the gateway to the High Ranges, a chief educational centre and a very populous place, it was hoped that further representations on the need for improving the hospital would be unnecessary. It would be a matter of gratification to the people if one building at least were constructed in the hospital premises every year until the estimated number of eight was reached.

DEWAN'S REPLY: കോട്ടയം ആശുപത്രിയിൽ കെട്ടിടസൌകര്യം പോരാ എന്നാണ് നിങ്ങളുടെ നിവേദനസാരം. ആ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും ബോദ്ധ്യം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. സ്ഥിരമായ ഒരു കെട്ടിടം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു പക്ഷേ കാലതാമസം വന്നേയ്ക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ച് തൽക്കാലം രണ്ടു ഷെഡ് കെട്ടാൻ ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു കൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ അവിടെയുള്ള സ്ഥലദൌർല്ലഭ്യം കുറെക്കെ നീങ്ങുന്നതാണ്. ഒരു സ്ഥിരമായ കെട്ടിടം കെട്ടേണ്ടതിനെപ്പറ്റി അലോചിക്കാം.

[Government also are aware of the inadequacy of accommodation.

in the Kottayam hospital. As the construction of a permanent building may take some time, orders have been issued for the erection of two temporary sheds. That will serve to remove the grievance. The question of a pucca building for the hospital will be considered.]

64. Sanitation in Trivandrum.

MR. S. EASWARAMURTHIA PILLAI (*Trading Classes*) *Trivandrum*) said that there were several slums within the Trivandrum town, to which the Government's attention had not been drawn. Their existence was a constant menace to the health of the people. The illiterate men living in the slum areas had not yet learnt the laws of hygiene and sanitation.

Notwithstanding everything that the Municipality had done, the town of Trivandrum had become the breeding ground of some of the most dreadful diseases which, besides claiming young victims, created a generation of citizens who were unhealthy, deformed, inactive and dull. The slums were partly responsible for that state of affairs. Government were trying to grapple with the situation ; but there was no use in treating the symptoms when the cause escaped notice. Government should issue orders to the Municipality to acquire the slums and other congested areas and to make arrangements for the insanitary and unhealthy buildings being replaced by model buildings fit for human beings to live in.

The drainage system of the Trivandrum town had been a subject of representation in several sessions of the Assembly. But Government had done nothing in the matter. The spread of elephantiasis, the attacks of typhoid fever, the breeding of mosquitoes, the poison arising from the gutters and the accumulation of the contents of drains in the Kuriathi paddy fields were facts which no officer of the Government cared to look into. The Dewan should visit the northern boundary of the Kuriathi fields and witness the condition of that locality. It was said that, with the introduction of the pipewater scheme, further drainage work would be undertaken. As the matter concerned the life of the population, no time should be lost for bringing about a radical change in the condition of the locality. A cistern should be constructed in the centre of the field mentioned above, where the contents of the drains might accumulate and where by a process of chlorination they might be converted into manure for the use of the Agricultural Department. If that could not be done, the contents of the drains should be evacuated into the sea near Valiathurai by the aid of pumps.

A number of merchants, pedestrians and others were using the narrow lane running close behind the shops at Chalai to the Elavania village as a public urinal. That lane and the lane to the east of the royal stables which was used as a latrine were true specimens of the result of sanitary negligence. There was need for one hundred urinals in those localities and they should be constructed before the completion of the Chackai– Thampanoor Railway extension scheme.